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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/807,929	03/24/2004	Lisa Renee Hayden	09808630-0001	5141

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EXAMINER

VALENTI, ANDREA M

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3643

DATE MAILED: 04/01/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/807,929

Applicant(s)

HAYDEN, LISA RENEE

Examiner

Andrea M. Valenti

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 14 January 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-12, 18 and 19 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-12, 18 and 19 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

Applicant's election without traverse of claims 1-12, 18 and 19 in the reply filed on 14 January 2005 is acknowledged.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-4, 6, and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 986,875 to Tilghman.

Regarding Claim 1, Tilghman teaches a machine for vending floral arrangements including: a stack of generally circular carousels (Tilghman Fig. 1 #69 and page 1 line 27-28) each for supporting a plurality of floral arrangements (Tilghman page 1 line 35-37); and a generally cylindrical exterior housing (Tilghman #17, 20, 11, 67) surrounding the carousels.

Regarding Claim 2, Tilghman teaches the carousels are stacked together in a modular arrangement (Tilghman Fig. 1 #69, 60, 61).

Regarding Claim 3, Tilghman teaches at least one carousel includes a rotary shelf (Tilghman page 1 line 42).

Regarding Claim 4, Tilghman teaches least one rotary shelf is perforated (Tilghman Fig. 2 and Fig. 1 #70) to allow air to flow through the shelf.

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Regarding Claim 6, Tilghman inherently teaches the exterior housing substantially air-tight (Tilghman teaches that the exterior structure encloses the carousels and maintains an internal refrigeration system and is thus substantially air-tight via the glass panels and angle irons).

Regarding Claim 7, Tilghman teaches the inside of the housing is refrigerated (Tilghman page 2 line 20).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claim 5 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 986,875 to Tilghman in view of U.S. Patent No. 1,393,050 to Talley et al.

Regarding Claim 5, Tilghman teaches an exterior housing further includes a dome mounted over the uppermost carousel (Tilghman #17 and the panels between elements #17). Tilghman teaches that the exterior housing is transparent (i.e. glass panels), but is silent on the dome being transparent. However, Talley et al teaches an entire transparent vending/display apparatus (Talley Fig. 1 #16). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the teachings of Tilghman with the teachings of Talley to provided enhanced visibility of the floral merchandise and to allow more light into the display to enhance the visual appearance of the merchandise to enhance consumer appeal.

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Claim 8 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 986,875 to Tilghman in view of Japanese Patent JP 2002140773 to Ikejiri.

Regarding Claim 8, Tilghman is silent on a sensor that is arranged to activate a sound reproduction device when a person is sensed near to the machine. However, Ikejiri teaches a sensor that is arranged to activate a sound reproduction device when a person is sensed near to the machine (Ikejiri English abstract element #1 and 3 Fig. 1). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the teachings of Tilghman with the teachings of Ikejiri at the time of the invention to discourage burglary or vandalism as taught by Ikejiri.

Claims 9, 10, 11, and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 986,875 to Tilghman in view of U.S. Patent No. 2,875,878 to Hoban.

Regarding Claim 9, Tilghman teaches a machine for vending floral arrangements including: a stack of carousels (Tilghman Fig.1 #69) each supporting a plurality of floral arrangements (Tilghman page 1 line 35-37). Tilghman is silent on each of the plurality of floral arrangements supported on each carousel are vended at the same price. However, Hoban teaches a vending machine where the items on each carousel are vended at the same price (Hoban Col. 8 line 5). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the teachings of Tilghman with the teachings of Hoban at the time of the invention since the modification is an old and notoriously well-known means of grouping articles on display to help the consumer efficiently comparison shop

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between equivalently priced items to expedite the selection process. This modification is merely a known business/organizational measure.

Regarding Claims 10, Tilghman as modified teaches the carousels are stacked together in a modular arrangement (Tilghman Fig. 1 #69, 60, 61).

Regarding Claims 11 and 18, Tilghman as modified teaches at least one of the carousels includes a rotary shelf (Tilghman page 1 line 42).

Claims 12 and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 986,875 to Tilghman in view of U.S. Patent No. 2,875,878 to Hoban as applied to claim 9, 11, 10, and 18 above, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,123,223 to Watkins.

Regarding Claims 12 and 19, Tilghman as modified teaches at least one rotary shelf includes dividers (Tilghman #67) that allow removal of only one floral arrangement during a single vending operation, but is silent on the dividers being steel. However, Watkins teaches a floral vending machine with steel dividers (Watkins Col. 6 line 19-22). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to further modify the teachings of Tilghman with the teachings of Watkins at the time of the invention since the modification is merely the selection of a known alternate material for intended use selected for the advantage of enhanced refrigeration capabilities between compartments as taught by Watkins.

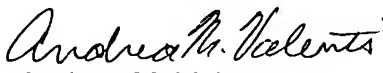
The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

French Patent FR 2839177A; French Patent FR 2246210A; French Patent FR 2588107 A1; U.S. Patent No. 4,498,603; U.S. Patent No. 4,317,604; U.S. Patent No. 1,474,847; U.S. Patent No. 1,575,988; U.S. Patent No. 3,031,055; U.S. Patent No. 6,131,399; U.S. Patent No. 4,927,051; U.S. Patent No. 3,146,043.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Andrea M. Valenti whose telephone number is 703-305-3010. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:30am-5pm M-F; Alternating Fridays Off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Peter M. Poon can be reached on 703-308-2574. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


Andrea M. Valenti
Patent Examiner
Art Unit 3643

23 March 2005